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Bromsgrove Rural District Council.



REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
For the Year 1955.

Bromsgrove Rural District Council.



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Annual Report of the Health Department

FOR THE YEAR 1955.

Chairman of the Council	E. V. GODRICH, ESQ., J.P.
Vice-Chairman of the Council	...	L. J. BOFFEY, ESQ.
Chairman of the Public Health Committee	....	W. E. HOBBS, ESQ.
Clerk of the Council	....	WALTER E. DUDLEY, ESQ.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE :

MRS. B. H. BATE.	W. T. FOX, ESQ.
MRS. S. EWAN, J.P.	E. GITTUS, ESQ., C.C.
MISS P. K. SUFFIELD, J.P.	E. V. GODRICH, ESQ., J.P.
MRS. H. TUSTIN.	A. H. HINGLEY, ESQ.
L. J. BOFFEY, ESQ.	W. E. HOBBS, ESQ.
	W. E. LEE, ESQ.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health	....	E. T. SHENNAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health		V. PUGH, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Senior Sanitary Inspector	....	P. P. CHAMINGS, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).
Additional Sanitary Inspector	....	R. F. ROBINS, M.S.I.A. (Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).
Assistant Sanitary Inspector	....	K. J. SMITH.
Clerk	....	MISS J. E. BUTLER.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1955.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BROMS-
GROVE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the state of the Public Health in the Rural District of Bromsgrove for the year 1955 and the work carried out by your Health Department.

The estimated population was increased by over 700 individuals, suggesting an increase by immigration of approximately 600. There was a slight decrease in both the birth and death rates.

Infectious disease notifications increased by five times—mainly due to the biennial increase in measles. Five cases of acute anterior poliomyelitis were recorded—there were no deaths from this disease.

Housing continued to be a pressing problem with applications for Council houses coming forward in similar numbers to previous years.

I wish again to thank members of the Council for their help and consideration during the year and Mr. Dudley, Senior Officers and their staffs for their co-operation. I am greatly indebted to Mr. Chamings and the Staff of the Health Department for their continued enthusiastic work.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. T. SHENNAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres 45,610.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population	Mid 1955 —	30,070
.....	Mid 1954 —	29,360
(Census, 1951—28,172)	Mid 1947 —	25,230
	Mid 1937 —	19,620
	End of 1955 —	9,078
Number of inhabited houses	End of 1954 —	8,816
	End of 1947 —	7,798
	End of 1937 —	6,645

Rateable Value, 1st April, 1955 £177,123.

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate £709 7s. 2d.

Estimated

Population by Parishes.		1939	1955
Alvechurch	.....	3236	4860
Belbroughton	.....	2676	2720
Bentley Pauncefoot	.....	344	340
Beoley	.....	770	890
Clent	.....	1943	2090
Cofton Hackett	.....	3736	4580
Dodford-with-Grafton	.....	513	570
Frankley	.....	184	180
Hagley	.....	2233	2720
Hunnington	.....	543	550
Romsley	.....	1070	1000
Stoke Prior	.....	2130	2520
Tutnall and Cobley	.....	697	780
Wythall	.....	4482	6270
TOTALS		24,557	30,070

VITAL STATISTICS.

(1954 figures in brackets).

LIVE BIRTHS.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	180 (204)	201 (192)	381 (396).
Illegitimate	10 (8)	12 (7)	22 (15).
	190 (212)	213 (199)	403 (411)

Birth Rate. (Births per 1,000 population):—

	1955	1954	1953	1937	1955—Eng. Wales
Crude	13.40	13.99	14.09	14.1	15.0 (15.2)
Compara- bility Factor	1.04	1.04	1.01		
Standard- ised	13.93	14.54	14.23		

There was a slight decrease in the number of births. The standardised birth rate of 13.93 was below that of the whole country of 15.0.

Illegitimacy Rate. (Total live illegitimate births per 1,000 total live births) :—

1955	1954	1953	1937	1955 (England and Wales)
54.9	36.4	44.7	32.0	45.0.

STILL BIRTHS.	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	.... 5	4	9 (9)
Illegitimate	.... —	1	1 (—)
	—	—	—
	5	5	10 (9)

Still-birth Rate. (Still births per 1,000 total live and still births) :—

1955	1954	1953	1937	1955 (England & Wales)
24.4	21.4	12.4	38.1	23.1

The number of still births was increased.

DEATHS. M. F. Total.

148 (151) 135 (138) 283 (289)

Death Rate. (Deaths per 1,000 population) :—

	1955	1954	1953	1937	1955 Eng. & Wales
Crude	9.40	9.84	9.14	11.1	11.7 (11.3)
Compara- bility Factor	1.03	1.03	1.01		
Standard- ised	9.68	10.13	9.23		11.7 (11.3)

Major Causes of Deaths (by percentages) :—

	1955.	1954.	1953
1. Disease of the Circulatory System	53.7 %	49.1 %	49 %
2. Malignant Diseases (all forms)	16.0 %	15.2 %	18.4 %
3. Respiratory Diseases (excluding T.B.)	.... 9.9 %	12.5 %	8.4 %
4. Accidents	.... 4.6 %	3.5 %	4.6 %
5. Tuberculosis (all forms)	.... 1.8 %	1.8 %	1.1 %

MATERNAL DEATHS.

Maternal Mortality (Maternal Deaths per 1,000 total live and still-births) :—

1955	1954	1953	1937	1955 England and Wales
Nil	2.38	2.48	Nil	0.64 (0.69)

I have to report that there were no maternal deaths during the year.

INFANT AND NEONATAL DEATHS.

Infant deaths (under 1 year of age).

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	3	4	7 (9)
Illegitimate	—	1	1 (2)
	—	—	—
	3	5	8 (11)
	—	—	—

Neonatal deaths (under 4 weeks of age).

Legitimate ....	....	3	3	6 (5)
Illegitimate ....	....	—	—	— (1)
		—	—	—
		3	3	6 (6)
		—	—	—

Infant and Neonatal Mortality Rates :—

	1955	1954	1953	1955 England & Wales.
Deaths of Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	18.37	22.73	23.43	—
Deaths of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	45.45	133.33	Nil.	—
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 total live births	14.88	14.60	14.92	17.3
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 total live births	19.85	26.76	22.38	24.9

Causes of Infant Deaths :

Congenital Malformation	....	4 (3 Neonatal)
Birth Trauma	....	1 (Neonatal)
Prematurity	....	1 (Neonatal)
Broncho-pneumonia	....	1 (Neonatal)
Asphyxia	....	1

**CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT
1955.**

CAUSES OF DEATH.	M.	F.	TOTAL	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Pop.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	5	—	5	.16
2. Tuberculosis, other ...	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease ...	—	1	1	.03
4. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—
8. Measles ...	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	8	4	12	.39
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bron- chus ...	3	1	4	.13
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	1	1	.03
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	5	5	.16
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	13	10	23	.76
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	1	1	2	.06
16. Diabetes ...	—	1	1	.03
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	30	45	1.49
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	32	12	44	1.46
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	3	8	11	.36
20. Other heart disease ...	20	23	43	1.43
21. Other circulatory disease ...	6	3	9	.29
22. Influenza ...	2	1	3	.09
23. Pneumonia ...	2	4	6	.19
24. Bronchitis ...	10	5	15	.49
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	2	2	4	.13
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	1	4	.13
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1	1	.03
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	3	1	4	.13
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	—	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformation ...	2	1	3	.09
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	10	12	22	.73
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	4	—	4	.13
34. All other accidents ...	4	5	9	.29
35. Suicide ...	—	1	1	.03
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	—	1	1	.03
TOTALS ...	148	135	283	9.40

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

No major changes occurred in the preventative Health Services of the district.

(a) Child Welfare Clinics.

The following Child Welfare Clinics, provided by the County Council, were held in the district :

Alvechurch	....	1st and 3rd Wednesday in month.
Beoley	....	3rd Wednesday in month.
Belbroughton	....	1st and 3rd Monday in month.
Cleat	....	2nd and 4th Monday in month.
Coston Hackett	....	2nd and 4th Tuesday in month.
Finstall	....	1st and 3rd Thursday in month.
Hagley	....	2nd and 4th Wednesday in month.
Wythall	....	2nd and 4th Wednesday in month.
West Heath	....	1st and 3rd Friday in month.

The enthusiastic aid to the medical and nursing staffs at these clinics given by the voluntary helpers was much appreciated.

(b) Health Visitors.

The County Council provided a service of health visitors throughout the district.

These were as follows :—

Miss Jenner,
33 Worldsend Lane,
Quinton.

West Heath,
Alvechurch,
Coston Hackett.

Miss Elliot,
3 Flat,
Hillfields.
Redlake Road,
Pedmore,
Stourbridge.

Hagley,
Part Cleat.

Miss W. A. N. Tilt,
" Brynglass,"
Penmanor,
Finstall,
Bromsgrove.

Bentley,
Finstall,
Tutnall and Copley.

Miss Pope,
260 Broad Lane,
King's Heath.

Beoley,
Wythall.

Mrs. Salter,
62 Bath Road,
Worcester.

Dodford,
Stoke Prior.

Miss Wilcox,
Redlake Road,
Pedmore,
Stourbridge.

Fairfield,
Frankley.

Miss Abbott,
40 New Road,
Stourbridge.

Hunnington,
Romsley.

Mrs. Bullock,
2 Church Avenue,
Clent.

Belbroughton,
Part Clent.

(e) **The Midwifery Services and Home Nursing.**

The County Council continued to provide domiciliary nursing and midwifery service.

Parishes :—were served by nurses stationed in :—

Alvechurch	....	....	Alvechurch.
Beoley	....	....	Redditch.
Belbroughton and Clent	....	....	Clent.
Bentley, Tutnall & Cobley	....	....	Hanbury.
Cofton Hackett	....	....	Cofton Hackett and Barnt Green.
Fairfield, Dodford	....	....	Catshill and Rednal.
Frankley, Hunnington, Romsley.	....	....	Halesowen.
Hagley	....	....	West Hagley.
Stoke Prior	....	....	Stoke Works.
Wythall	....	....	Hollywood.

(d) **School Health Services.**

The County Council continued to provide an extensive school health service throughout the district. Regular Medical Inspections of school children were carried out and special clinics, e.g., minor ailment, orthopaedic, ophthalmic, dental, child guidance, etc., were available for the reference of children where more detailed investigation or treatment was required. An Open-air School was available at Malvern to which children who were thought to be likely to benefit from a change of air and environment could be sent.

(c) **Laboratory Facilities.**

The County Council provided a laboratory for the chemical and bacteriological analysis of water, milk, etc.

The Public Health Laboratory Service provided, at the Royal Infirmary, Worcester, facilities for the bacteriological examination of specimens in connection with the diagnosis and prevention of spread of infectious disease.

(f) Hospital Services.

Hospitals, under the control of the Regional Hospital Board, which served this District, were :—

Infectious Disease.	Hayley Green Hospital, Halesowen. Little Bromwich Fever Hospital, Birmingham.
Tuberculosis.	Knightwick Sanatorium. Hayley Green Sanatorium, Halesowen.
Maternity.	All Saints Hospital, Bromsgrove. Mary Stevens Maternity Hospital, Stourbridge. Luey Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport. The Birmingham Maternity Hospital, Birmingham.
Children's Disease.	Children's Hospital, Birmingham.
Venereal Disease.	General Hospital, Birmingham. Royal Infirmary, Worcester.
Mental Illness.	Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital, Broms- grove. Powick Mental Hospital, Malvern.
Chest Surgery.	Hill Top Hospital, Bromsgrove.
General.	All Saints Hospital, Bromsgrove. Bromsgrove Cottage Hospital. Smallwood Hospital, Redditch. The General Hospitals, Birmingham.
Aged Chronic Sick.	All Saints Hospital, Bromsgrove.

(g) Diphtheria Immunisation and Smallpox Vaccination Service.

This was provided by the County Council. Locally it was administered jointly with that of the Bromsgrove Urban District by the Bromsgrove Urban District Health Department.

Figures of immunisation and vaccination carried out are found under Section (F.).

(h) Ambulance Service.

This was provided by the County Council and the Rural District was serviced from surrounding centres.

(i) Health Education.

The Council contributes to the Central Council for Health Education.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector, in his report, gives details of the Sanitary Inspections carried out during the year.

2. Water Supply.

Over four-fifths of the houses in the District were supplied with main piped water supplies which were satisfactory in quality and quantity. There were still, however, many dwellings and farm premises with only well water supplies. These latter supplies were, to a large extent, unsatisfactory.

Routine sampling of well water supplies for bacteriological and chemical analysis was continued during the year.

Sampling at source of main supplies was done by the water undertakings, but consumer samples were taken from time to time in the District. Specimens of the results of this sampling are given on page .

During the year under review, the following extensions of mains were effected :—

The City of Birmingham Water Department	3,898 yards.
East Worcestershire Waterworks Company	10,010 yards.
Stourbridge and District Water Board	711 yards.
South Staffordshire Waterworks Company	124 yards.

Certain of the water supply extension schemes, which had already been approved in principle, were carried out by the East Worcestershire Waterworks Co., as follows :—

Kidderminster Road, Dodford ;
Lower Bentley, Bentley Paucefoot ;
Snuff Hill and Croppings Green, Belbroughton
(in R.D.C. area of supply).

The outstanding schemes which have been approved in principle by the Ministry are as follows :—

<i>Location.</i>	<i>Parish.</i>
Madeley Heath	Belbroughton
Walton Pool and Vine Lane	Clent
Rumbow	Clent and Romsley
Dark Lane	Wythall
Packhorse Lane	Wythall
The Fordrough, Trueman's Heath	Wythall

Other schemes considered included extensions from Croppings Green to Dordale, Belbroughton ; extension of Banks Green main and Jefferies Farm to Uplands, Bentley ; Portway, Beoley ; Kidderminster Road to Woodcote Green, Woodcote to Outwood Farm, Dodford ; Orchard Farm to Gate Hangs Well, Stoke Prior ; but of these only the last scheme was submitted to the Ministry for approval during the year.

WATER UNDERTAKINGS.

EAST WORCESTERSHIRE WATERWORKS CO.
Sampled in Alvechurch.

CITY of BIRMINGHAM WATER DEPARTMENT
Sampled in Wythall.

STOURBRIDGE & DISTRICT WATER BOARD.
Sampled in Clent.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WATERWORKS Co.
Sampled in Romsley.

Physical Characters	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear
Odour	None	None	None	None
Deposit	None	None	None	None
pH.	7.6	7.4	7.4	7.9
Chemical Examination				
†Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100°C.)	None	Slight Trace	None	None
†Solids in Solution (Dried at 180°C.)	290	70	620	115
†Solids in Solution after Ignition	265	20	570	90
†Chlorine expressed as Chloride	20	27	58	17
†Hardness Non-carbonate	70	15	170	25
†Hardness Carbonate	120	15	205	50
†Hardness Total	190	30	375	75
†Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.01	0.02	Trace	0.02
†Albuminoid Nitrogen	Trace	0.02	0.02	0.03
†Nitrate Nitrogen	7.4	2.7	10.3	2.3
†Nitrite Nitrogen	Trace	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
†Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C.	0.13	0.2	0.13	0.52
†Toxic Metals	None detected	None detected	None detected	None detected
Bacteriological Examination. Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37°C. per 100 m.l.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Probable number of faecal coli per 100 m.l.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

†Expressed in parts per million.

The Supply of Water in the parishes is as follows :—

PARISH	FROM PUBLIC MAINS.				From Private Supplies, e.g. Wells, Springs, Etc.
	Direct to Houses.		By means of Standpipe.		
	No. of dwelling-houses.	Population	No. of Dwelling-houses.	Population	
	No. of Dwelling-houses.	Population	No. of Dwelling-houses.	Population	
Alvechurch ...	1358	4753	2	7	392
Belbroughton ...	675	2362	—	—	483
Bentley Pauncefoot	62	217	—	—	140
Beoley ...	84	294	—	—	630
Cleat ...	571	1998	—	—	192
Cofton Hackett ...	1351	4728	—	—	45
Dodford-with-Grafton	98	343	—	—	269
Frankley ...	28	98	—	—	91
Hagley ...	812	2842	—	—	52
Hunnington ...	162	567	—	—	17
Romsley ...	251	878	—	—	168
Stoke Prior ...	700	2450	—	—	210
Tutnall and Cobley	180	630	—	—	196
Wythall ...	1820	6370	—	—	346
TOTALS ...	8152	28530	2	7	3231

3. Drainage and Sewerage.

The following are the Sewage Disposal Works situated in the District :—

Alveehureh	....	Lye Bridge.
Clent	....	Hossill Lane.
		Horse Pasture—land irrigation.
Cofton Haekett	....	Kingswood Road—to Birmingham.
		Cofton Road.
Belbroughton	....	Weybridge.
Hagley	....	Sweetpool Lane.
Hunnington	....	Illey Lane.
Stoke Prior	....	Stoke Works.
		Fininstall—Pumping Station to Broms-
		grove U.D.C.
Wythall	....	Houndsfield Lane.

The general position with regard to proposed schemes for sewers and sewage disposal at the end of the year was as follows :—

Alveehureh—

Hopwood Area. Approved in principle by Ministry.
Awaiting award of starting date.

Bordesley Area. Approved in principle by Council.
and

Rowney Green. Consultations to be arranged with Redditch U.D.C.

Lye Bridge Works. Extension approved in principle by Council as and when necessary.

Tanyard Lane (Duplication). Plans prepared and submitted to County Council for observations.

Bittell Road (Duplication)—as above. Negotiations with Severn River Board re Trade Waste in progress.

Belbroughton—

Fairfield—Approved in principle by Council. Negotiations in progress with Bromsgrove U.D.C.

Wildmoor—In abeyance.

Beoley—

Holt End—Preliminary report being prepared by Engineers.

Hagley—

Sweetpool Lane Works—Approved in principle by Ministry.
Awaiting completion of detailed plans, quantities, etc.

Hunnington—

Illey Lane Works—Engineer to prepare preliminary report on reconstruction and extension.

Stoke Prior—

Henbrook Works—Engineers preparing preliminary report on extensions.

Wythall—

Inkford and Tanners Green—Engineers preparing up-to-date preliminary report.

Shawbrook Area—In abeyance pending clarification re future development.

Fulford Hall Estate—Work of deepening private sewer to enable it to be in Shawbrook area scheme was completed.

Pail Emptying.

Pail emptying service was continued at fortnightly intervals in Stoke Prior and in a portion of Wythall parish.

4. Public Cleansing.

Refuse collection and disposal was carried out throughout the district under the direction of the Surveyor's Department.

A collection was carried out, so far as practicable, once a fortnight, and disposed by tipping at the following three sites :—Alvechurch, Belbroughton, and Wythall. Seven refuse vehicles were in use during the year, including four on hire to the Council by Contractor.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Housing Position at the end of 1955.

Estimated population	....	....	30,070	(29,360)
Units of accommodation	....	....	9,078	(8,816)
Number of persons per unit of accommodation	....	....	3.3	(3.3)
Number of dwellings rated during the year	....	....	268	(379)
Number of dwellings built by Council	....	....	25	(37)
Total number of Council Houses built post-war	....	....	501	(476)
Estimated number of caravan dwellings	....	....	555	(479)
Estimated number of Council House applicants	....	....	660	(600)

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Routine inspections of food premises were continued during the year, and every effort was made to ensure the clean and safe handling of food-stuffs. Further reference to the subject is made in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report.

Food Poisoning.

Three cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Disease 1955.

DISEASE.	Corrected Notifications.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	16	—	—
Measles	453	—	—
Whooping Cough	61	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Dysentery	4	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis....	5	5	—
Polio-Encephalitis	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	11	2	6
Erysipelas	4	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neona- torum	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	3	1	—
TOTAL	558	8	6

The number of notifications of infectious disease was over five times that of the previous year.

There was the expected biennial increased incidence of measles.

There were 5 cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis notified, with no deaths.

There were three individual cases of Food Poisoning reported. The causal organism was not isolated in any case.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children immunised during the year was as follows :—

Primary Immunisation—

Under 5 years old	291	(254)
5—14 years old	29	(24)

320 (278)

Re-inforcing (Booster) injections 307 (310)

The "Immunisation State" of children in the Rural District on 31st December, 1955, was as follows :—

Age at 31/12/55 i.e. Born in year.	Under 1 1955	1—4 1954—1951	5—9 1950—1946	10—14 1945—1941	Under 15 Total.
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster). A. 1951-1955.	33	1180	1756	446	3415
B. 1950 or earlier ...	—	—	599	1598	2197
No. of Births ...	403	1673			

Smallpox.

No cases of smallpox were reported.

Number of persons Vaccinated (or Revaccinated) during 1955 :—

Age at 31st Dec., 1955 i.e. born in year ...	Under 1 1955	1 1954	2-4 1951-53	5-14 1941-50	15 & over 1940	Total.
Number Vaccinated	237	7	7	2	3	256
Number Revaccinated	—	1	—	3	10	14

The number of babies Vaccinated showed an increase over the previous year. The figure of 237 was 58 % of the average number of babies born in the two years 1955-1954 which was 407. This was 6 % higher than in the previous year.

Tuberculosis.

Incidence and Mortality during 1955.

Age.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	12	15	—	—	5	—	—	—

Tuberculosis continued to be notified to the district council.

The statutory duty, however, of keeping the Tuberculosis register rested with the County Council.

The District Health Department continued to maintain a list of individuals resident within the district notified as suffering from Tuberculosis, which was kept up-to-date by information received from the County Council Tuberculosis Officer.

Twenty-seven cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

The total number of registered cases was 200 (195) as follows :

	M.	F.	TOTAL
Pulmonary	90	76	166
Non-Pulmonary	16	18	34
Total	106	94	200

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1955.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In submitting my Report for the year under review, I feel that I must again pin-point the fact that, in spite of considerable pressure on the part of the Council, the sewerage of certain built-up areas in the District still stands in abeyance, and again it is necessary to underline the Hopwood Scheme, where from time to time drainage flows on to the highway from overflowing cesspools.

Considerable progress was made with regard to the reconditioning of houses under the Housing Act, 1949. Sixty-nine applications for grants were approved. This brings the total of approved cases to 110, in respect of which grants were approved to the value of over £22,000; 67 schemes were completed and certified up to the end of the year.

I am pleased to report that a high quality has been maintained in the meat at 5 slaughterhouses where slaughtering has taken place during the year.

From the report it will be seen that it has been a year of steady progress in many directions and I am indebted to all concerned for their help in bringing this about.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

PEARSON P. CHAMINGS,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

COMPLAINTS.

A total of 115 complaints were received during the year 1955, all of which were investigated and appropriate action taken.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following are the numbers and nature of Inspections made during the year :—

Houses inspected	886
No. of inspections and re-inspections of houses	1869
Inspections under Housing Regulations	—
Visits re Complaints and Nuisances	195
Visits re Notifiable Diseases	65
Knacker's Yard	8
Visits re Meat Inspection	613
Milk and Dairies	22
Piggeries	96
Bakchouses	—
Schools	16
Factories and Workshops	48
Outworkers' Premises	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds	635
Water Supply	257
Works in Progress	660
Drainage	550
Shops, etc. (re unfit food)	9
Visits to Shops and Food Premises	253
Rodent Control	59
Canal Boats	—
Outside Interviews	813
Verminous Premises	4
Miscellaneous	135
Total No. of informal Notices served during the year	90

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

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| (i) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 886 |
| (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose | 1869 |
| (ii) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 | — |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | — |
| (iii) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 18 |

(iv) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) not found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	73
2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	65
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	—
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in anticipation of Demolition Orders	4
(iii) Closed in pursuance of Undertaking under Section 11	11
(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(ii) Closing Orders under L.G. (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953	3
(iii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding :—

It is not possible to supply accurate figures for overcrowding in the district.

General—Housing.

Four sub-standard cottages were demolished as a result of informal action, thus obviating the necessity of issuing Demolition Orders.

The 3 Closing Orders were made in respect of houses which it was not possible to demolish until adjoining property is dealt with.

Of the 11 premises subject to undertakings, in 8 cases they were not to be used for human habitation until rendered fit to the satisfaction of the Council, one was converted into one house with the adjoining cottage, and in two cases the property is not to be used for habitation.

Four houses listed for consideration for demolition were thoroughly repaired, reconstructed and rendered fit.

Sixty-five houses were repaired, but only in one case was it necessary to issue a Statutory Notice under the Public Health Act, as I believe that better results are invariably obtained by the informal approach.

The Council has pursued an active policy under the Grant sections of the Housing Act, 1949, and, as a result, 96 applications were received for grant, of which 60 were approved and 27 cases were still under consideration at the end of the year. Six of the applications approved were subsequently withdrawn by the applicants.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There were 11 sites licensed under the Public Health Act and 37 individual licensees in force during the year.

The total number of Tents, Vans and Sheds in permanent occupation throughout the District was 555, mainly modern trailer caravans. These figures included those on unauthorised sites which developed mainly in Wythall parish and concerning which action was taken under Planning legislation.

The demand for this type of accommodation arose mainly from persons not previously resident in the District.

The Camping Club of Gt. Britain continued to maintain their holiday site at Romsley in a satisfactory manner.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk.

As the District was in a "Specified area," all milk sold to the public had to be under one of the authorised Special Designations, and consequently no samples of non-designated milk were taken.

The 26 samples of designated milk submitted for examination complied with the required standard. It will be appreciated that a large percentage of the milk retailed in the District was bottled in other Authorities' areas where it was regularly sampled, and, therefore, only a limited number were taken by my Department.

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.

The following licences (including supplementary licences) were issued during the year :—

Tuberculin Tested Milk :—

Dealers Bottling	2	Distributors	32
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Pasteurised Milk :—

Distributors	34
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Sterilised Milk :—

Distributors	36
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(b) Meat and Other Foods.

There were eight licensed Slaughterhouses in the District, but at only five was regular slaughtering carried out. All animals slaughtered were inspected and this entailed some extra work at week-ends and evenings.

Following is a summary of the inspections and condemnations which took place :—

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed ...	478	65	94	2131	830
Number inspected	478	65	94	2131	830
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	—	2	—	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	33	9	—	4	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tubercu- losis	6.8	16.9	—	0.28	0.72
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcase con- demned	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	17	20	—	—	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuber- culosis	3.7	30.7	—	—	0.72

Routine visits were made to food shops, cafes and public-houses for the inspection of premises and examination of foodstuffs and, in the main, conditions were reasonably satisfactory.

A certain amount of foodstuffs of various kinds were condemned as unfit for human consumption at retail food premises during the year.

(c) **Ice Cream.**

The total number of registrations in force for premises for the manufacture of Ice Cream was two and for retail sale only 108.

One hundred and two samples were submitted during the year for bacteriological examination, and the results of the samples were as follows :—

Provisional Grade :	1—100 Satisfactory.
	2— — Satisfactory.
	3— 2 Unsatisfactory.
	4— — Unsatisfactory.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT.

Thirty licences to slaughter animals were issued under the above Act during the year.

HOUSE DRAINAGE.

Fifty-eight existing houses were connected to the sewer and 31 were drained to cesspool, making a total of 89 for the year. Repairs were carried out to drainage systems at a further 16 properties. By the end of the year 148 premises in Belbroughton had been connected to the new sewer.

The question of providing sewers to various parts of the District and improving disposal works where necessary was considered by the Council during the year, but it was not possible to commence any of these schemes.

WATER SUPPLY.

Five samples of mains water were submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination and all were satisfactory.

Forty-seven samples of water from private wells and springs were submitted for both chemical and bacteriological examination only.

Of these, thirty-three were bacteriologically unsatisfactory and seventeen chemically unsatisfactory ; thirty were chemically satisfactory and twenty bacteriologically satisfactory.

Sixty-one existing premises were connected to the water main in the course of 1955.

A total of 14,743 yards of new mains were laid by the various Water Undertakings within the District during the year.

These extensions consisted principally of the schemes for Lower Bentley, Snuff Hill and Croppings Green, Belbroughton (in R.D.C. area of supply), Kidderminster Road, Dodford, and development in various parts of the District.

There was still the need to improve supplies to Broome Hill and Bell Heath area of Belbroughton and to provide main water to the considerable number of houses in the district

in urgent need of a piped water supply, particularly in the Packhorse Lane and Dark Lane area, Wythall, Portway, and Gorcott Hill area, Beoley, Rumbow area, Clent ; Vine Lane and Walton Pool, Clent ; Madeley Heath, Belbroughton.

DISINFESTATION.

Two premises were found to be in need of disinfestation.

All the Council refuse tips were periodically treated for flies and crickets where necessary.

RODENT CONTROL.

A full-time Rodent Operative is employed. A total of 198 infestations of Private houses and 158 at business premises were successfully treated.

During the year the Council continued to provide a free service for the destruction of rats at private dwellings, but in the cases of business premises a charge was made as previously.

The service was fully used and in addition a considerable number of visits were made for survey purposes by the Operative.

Twenty-nine contracts were made for the treatment of business premises and the income from this source amounted to £181.

Frequent inspections of the refuse tips and sewage works were carried out throughout the year and necessary treatments carried out by the Operative.

Test baiting of the sewers was carried out in August in accordance with the requirements of the Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. A slight infestation was discovered in one area, and this was treated.

Due to the co-operation of the public, possibly because of the free service, infestations were generally notified in their early stages and were thus only of a minor nature, but it seems essential to continue the service to prevent any large-scale build-up.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No cases occurred during the course of the year where it was necessary to make arrangements for the burial, under the provisions of the above Act, of a person dying within the District.

RAG, FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIAL ACT, 1951.

The premises of one firm are registered for the use of filling materials to which this Act applies.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The number of industrial premises is not large and as a result air pollution from factory chimneys did not present a major problem.

Co-operation by the management of the few premises concerning which complaints were occasionally received resulted in these troubles being largely overcome.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

PREMISES.	Number on Register. (3)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions. (4)	Written Notices. (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	77	38	5	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	9	7	1	—
TOTAL	89	48	6	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

PARTICULARS (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were Instituted. (7)
			Referred :		
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable tempera- ture (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) :					
(a) Insufficient ...	3	3	—	3	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ...	9	9	—	9	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	12	12	—	12	—

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C.R.